

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 043294

R 191200Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0157

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: DELTA HIGHPOINT

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO
DATED DEC 19 IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0888

1. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VC/NVA HOLIDAYS OF DEC 19, 20
AND 22, VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA REACHED A HIGH POINT IN
THE 24 HOURS FROM 0600 18 DEC TO 0600 19 DEC. ACCORDING
TO MR IV, THERE WERE II VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (ABOUT
DOUBLE THE RECENT RATE), INCLUDING 20 GROUND ATTACKS, 43 ATTACKS
BY FIRE, 20 HARASSMENTS, ONE SABOTAGE INCIDENT AND 4 TERRORIST
ACTS. GVN LOST 38 TROOPS KILLED, 92 WOUNDED AND 28 INDIVIDUAL
WEAPONS. (THESE FIGURES ARE ALSO ABOUT DOUBLE THE NORMAL RATE.)
VC/NVA LOST 80 KILLED, 4 CAPTURED, 9 CREW-SERVED AND 37
INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED.

2. IN DINH TUONG, THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS CONCENTRATED IN
THE WESTERN THIRD OF THE PROVINCE IN THE CORRIDOR SOUTH OF TRI
PHAP. TWO EXPLOSIONS ON ROUTE 4 IN CAI LAY DISTRICT AT 0030
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AND 0200 CAUSED MINOR DAMAGE. THERE WERE EIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE

AND FOUR GROUND ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS.

3. IN CHUONG THIEN, THERE WERE 17 INCIDENTS, CONCENTRATED IN THE SOUTH-CENTRAL PART OF THE PROVINCE IN THE CORRIDOR EXTENDING ROUGHLY FROM VI THANH TO THE BAC LIEU-BA XUYEN BORDER AREA.

4. IN BA XUYEN MR IV REPORTED 10 INCIDENTS AND SECTOR REPORTED 20, INCLUDING 6 GROUND ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS 4 IN NGA NAM DISTRICT JUST SOUTH OF THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER AND ONE EACH IN THUAN HOA AND THAN TRI DISTRICTS. THE NGA NAM DISTRICT HQS WAS MORTARED THREE TIMES DURING THE NIGHT. VC/NVA TROOPS INVOLVED IN THESE ATTACKS PROBABLY WERE STRENGTHENED BY REINFORCEMENTS FROM CHUONG THIEN.

5. IN BAC LIEU 5 OUTPOSTS WERE HIT IN PHUOC LONG DISTRICT THE WORST NIGHT IN THE AREA IN MONTHS.

6. THIS UPSURGE MAY BE A TEMPORARY HIGH POINT RELATED TO THE HOLIDAYS, OR IT MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF A LONGER PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY. WHAT IS CLEAR AT THIS TIME IS THAT THE ATTACKS, PARTICULARLY IN VC MR 3 IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, WERE COORDINATED ON A BROAD SCALE.

LEDMANN
UNQUOTE.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON21232
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731216/aaaaaldw.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELTA HIGHPOINT PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN
TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005